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COMPONENT CURVES OF MORTALITY.

	Infancy.	Youth.		Middle Life.		Old Age.	
	Magnitude.*	Mode†	Magnitude.	Mode.	Magnitude.	Mode.	Magnitude.
Italy.....	495	25	124	52	99	72	282
England.....	292	23	51	42	173	72	484

* Per 1000 total deaths. † Years.

It must, of course, be remembered that this sort of study while profitable is also full of pitfalls for the unwary; and one can draw no conclusions from such figures as have been quoted without a thorough scrutiny of the mathematics and of the logic of the investigator.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

MICHIGAN VITAL STATISTICS.

The Thirty-second Annual Report of the Secretary of State on the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Michigan for the year 1898. Edited by Cressy L. Wilbur, M.D., Chief of Division of Vital Statistics. Lansing, Michigan, 1900.

While this report is the thirty-second in a series, it marks a new departure in the history of registration in Michigan, since all of the previous reports were much less complete in consequence of serious defects in the registration laws of the State. Under the new law of 1897 a certificate of death must be presented to the local registrar in every case of death before burial is permitted. Under the old law the statistics of deaths were collected once a year, at the time of taking the annual assessment, and it was estimated that only 60 per cent of the deaths were thus collected.

According to this report for the year 1898 the returns were as follows:—

Total number of births, 1898,	43,462
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population,	18.2
Total number of marriages, 1898,	20,138
Marriage rate (persons married) per 1,000,	16.9
Total number of deaths, 1898,	29,557
Death rate per 1,000,	12.4

Comparing these figures with those of other States having registration it would appear that while the marriage and death returns may be considered as fairly complete, the birth returns must still be quite defective.

In an appendix to the report the Bertillon system of classification is fully set forth, together with other important material of similar character. Much credit is due to the editor, Dr. Wilbur, for his energetic efforts in the way of securing uniformity of classification in this country. We are pleased to note that he has met with a good measure of success in this direction.

S. W. A.

CENSUS OF HAWAII.

The *U. S. Census Bulletin* No. 15 shows the population of the Hawaiian Islands for the year 1900. There are also included for purposes of comparison the population totals of each island for 1896 and, for Hawaii as a whole, from 1832 on, in six-year periods. A synopsis of the table showing the Hawaiian population from 1832 to 1900 is giving below : —

Census Year.	Population.	Increase or Decrease.	
		Number.	Per cent.
1832	130,313
1850	84,165	— 46,148	— 35.4
1878	57,985	— 26,180	— 31.1
1890	109,020	+ 51,035	+ 88.0
1900	154,001	+ 44,981	+ 41.2

Each census since 1832, up to and including 1872, showed a loss, the returns in 1872 giving a population of only 56,897, representing a loss since 1832 of 73,416, or 56.3 per cent.

The total land surface of the Hawaiian Islands is, approximately, 6449 square miles, the average number of persons to the square mile at the last three censuses being as follows : 1890, 13.9 ; 1896, 16.9 ; 1900, 23.8.

The population, from 1866 to 1900, is given for every district of each of the islands in the Hawaiian group, and also for Honolulu,